

**Robert Rutherford to George Washington, June 6, 1758,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM ROBERT RUTHERFORD, ESQ.**

WINCHESTER 6th. June 1758

SIR

Agreeable to what Past when last I had the Honr. of Confering with You—Inclosed are copys of the Instructions which I have given to the officers acting under me—by which You'l discover that they are Divided & Weekend in such a maner that Puts them intirely in the Power of the Enemy as they must consly Range—besides they cannot Be of the same service to the Inhabitants being unable to Oppose a strong Party that may sudinly Rush into the Country<sup>1</sup>—You will further Discover that all the support that the whole of the upper part of the County has, is Ensign Fry & 25 of the Rangers whereas it is absolutely Necessary that Different Partys of the Militia should be in those Parts—Namely at the fine new Mill formerly Lewis Stephens.—Holemans Fort & Pennywitz Mill as the Inhabitants cannot subsist Except those Mills & that Fort is Kept up—& small Numbers at Each place would answer the End together With the Inhabitants—which would enable Mr. Fry's Party to join Lt. Mo. dowell, & then they could Range in a strong Body—Pray give me Leave to say it is absolutely Necessary for Militia to be Stationed at the afforesaid places Otherwise the Comunication Between Winchester & Augusta will be Emediately Cut off—I am truly sensible nothing in your Power will be Wanting—I have Done every thing in mine —

Am Obligated to set out to consult some Skilful Physition —

May the Guardian Powers Protect you my Worthy Friend & give me leave

Dear Sir to subscribe myself Your Most Obligated Huble. Sert. RT. RUTHERFORD.

1 Inclosures in letter of Captain Rutherford, June 6: — LIEUT. JOSEPH MO. DOWELL SIR You are to Detach Ensign Fry a serjent & twenty Five men with all imaginable Despatch to Daniel Holemans Fort on the North River of Shannandoah which is to be his place of Rendezvous from which he is to Rang back as far as the Lost River of Capcapon & Downwards towards Potomack as far as the most convenient place for your party and his to Meet Wendalls Fort being the place most advisable in my Opinion that point you are to settle to your liking—When Ensign Fry is Marched with his party, you are with the Remainder of the Compj. to Act in the Best manner in your power for the safety of the Inhabitants According to your former Instructions Received from time to time. I shall order part of Lt. swaringens party to join you soon as Possible—you are to hold the strictes correspondence with Ensign Fry that you may join his Party or his yours on the first emergency I Depend greatly on your good intentions and Conduct I wish you success & am your Respectful Friend R RUTHERFORD Given at WINCHESTER the 22d. of May 1758— LIEUT THOS. SWARINGEN SIR You are imediately on the Receipt of this to Detach serjant Morgan with thirteen men to Join Lt. Mo. dowells party, and with the Remainder of your party you are to continue to observe the Instructions which you have Recd from time to time, of me I Depend greatly on your constant care—Wish you success & am Yr. Respectful friend RT. RUTHERFORD Given at WINCHESTER the 23d. of May 1758— ENSIGN SAMUEL FRY SIR You are to depart with all Imaginable Dispatch and March the Party assignd to you, by Lt. Mo. dowell to Daniel Holemans Fort on the North River of Shannandoah which place you are to make your greates Rendezvous from whence you are to Range Back as far as the Lost River and towards Potomack as far as the place agreed on on by Lt. Mo. dowell for his party & yours to meet and as your party is But small their greatest use will be for Intelligence which you are to give the Inhabitants and Lieut Mo. dowell on the Least discovery and then you are to Act as the Nature of the Case will Best admit of by Persuing the Enemy Joining Lt. Mo. dowell or any other party most Convenient and Expedient for the Common good—you are to observe to Tread every step with caution you have a Crafty Warlike Enemy to Cope with which you are not to let Escape if ever in your power Nor are you to Expose your men Rashly I Depend greatly on your Resolution Care and Conduct in Keeping your Men in a Deep sense of their duty as men & Christians and the Constant care they owe to their fellow subjects in this Branche of Business I wish you success— & am your Respectful Friend R RUTHERFORD Given at WINCHESTER the 22d. of may 1758